

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Official Action rejected claims 1-5 and 9-16 under §112, first and second paragraphs, as failing to comply with the written description requirement and as being indefinite.

Claim 9 is reproduced below and annotated to indicate how the claim reads on the drawing figures:

9. An adjustable detergent dispenser for water cleaners, comprising:

a body 1 with an ejector (chamber 3 and nozzle 4) having an expansion chamber 5, the expansion chamber comprising an expansion chamber wall hole extending through an outer wall of the expansion chamber;

a detergent container 31 connected to the body; and

an aspiration conduit 15 providing a fluid path for extracting detergent held within the detergent container into the expansion chamber,

the aspiration conduit 15 comprising a radially-directed series of variable-height channels (22A, 22B, 22C, 22D and 22E), with open tops exposed along their entire length (see Figures 4, 5A-5C), on an uppermost horizontal surface of a head 16 of the aspiration conduit,

the open-top channels becoming flow channels only when the head draws up against a bottom of the expansion chamber so to

result in variable-height flow channels being afforded on the uppermost surface of the head of the aspiration conduit (see Figures 2-5C),

a thus-formed flow channel providing a fluid flow inlet at an end of the flow channel and a flow outlet at a thus-formed top exit opening for fluid flow into the body, with the body, via the thus-formed flow channel of the aspiration conduit, being in fluid connection with the detergent container,

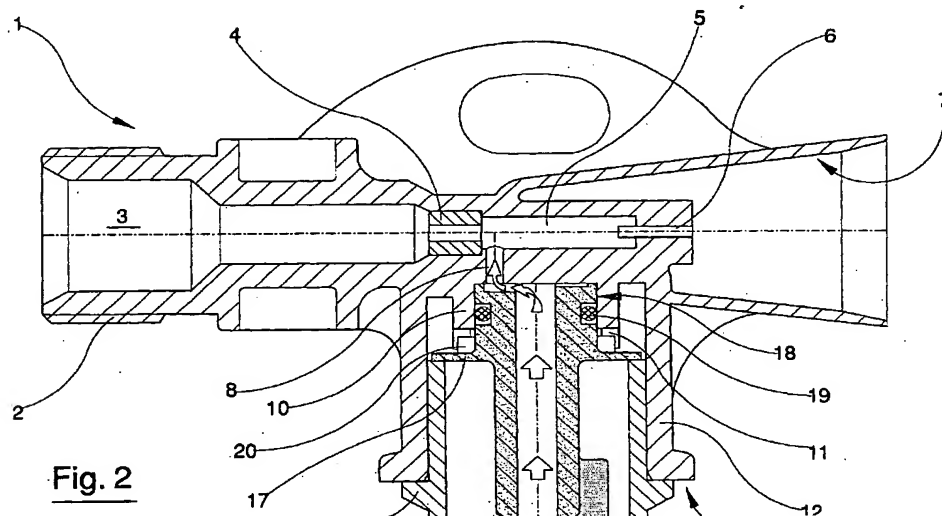
the variable-height channels being selectable brought into the fluid connection with the expansion chamber wall hole by an angular rotation of the head with respect to the body to bring the expansion chamber wall hole adjacent a selected channel,

the uppermost horizontal surface of the head of the aspiration conduit coming into contact with the outer wall of the expansion chamber(Figure 2).

From the above, it is believed clear that claim 9 is proper and is illustrated by the original drawing figures.

The specifically objected-to recitation is "the open-top channels becoming flow channels only when the head draws up [against] a bottom of the expansion chamber so to result in variable-height flow channels being afforded on the uppermost surface of the head of the aspiration conduit,". The Official Action does not specifically identify what is wrong with this recitation. This recited structure is clearly illustrated by Figure 2.

The relevant portion of Figure 2 is reproduced below and the arrows show one of the open-top channels drawn up against a bottom of the expansion chamber. Also illustrated is the resulting flow channel and arrows showing fluid flow through the flow channel. It is clear that even though the aspiration conduit 15 comprises a radially-directed series of variable-height channels (22A, 22B, 22C, 22D and 22E), they do not form flow channels until being drawn up against the bottom of the expansion chamber.



Next please see the specification, beginning at page 4, line 25, wherein there is disclosure of how the invention operates. Starting from the disassembled situation, represented in Figures 1A, 1B and 1C, the operator first inserts the aspiration conduit 15 into the chamber 9 of the body 1 of the device, coupling the drum 18 on the walls 10 of the chamber 9.

This coupling causes the teeth 20 to couple with a pair of notches 19 (see Figure 2). The positions are indicated by the position of the tab 24 with regard to the numbers written on the circular crown of the lower edge 13; thus, it is easy to know the angular position in which the head 16 of the aspiration conduit 15 has been installed on the chamber 9.

As per page 5, line 13, this tab position indicates a situation in which one of the channels 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E coincides with the hole 8 giving access to the expansion chamber 5. As illustrated, a flow channel is thus formed. The closure position of the neck 30 is illustrated in Figure 2.

It is further disclosed that should the teeth 20 not enter the notches 19, the bayonet joint involving the teeth 29 of the container neck 30 and the notches 14 will not be properly effected; also, the collar 28 would not perfectly settle on the lower edge 13. Thus, no flow channel is formed.

There is still further disclosed, that as the depth of the channels 22 is different, according to the angular position of the conduit 15 the flow rate of the aspirated detergent will be different, as the loss of head in the channel 22 will be of different entities. The multiplicity of radial channels 22 having different depths, allows a continuous variation in the height of the aspiration conduit head 16 at a channel 22 according to the angular position of the conduit 15.

Further, the conclusion of the specification (just prior to the claims) it is disclosed that, **the aim of enabling selection of the most suitable flow rate value is thus achieved, with a simple mounting operation in the desired position of the conduit 15.** It is also easy to clean the channels 22 of the connecting conduit between the expansion chamber 5 of the ejector and the aspiration conduit 15, as the latter part can be mounted and dismounted easily from the body 1 of the device.

In view of the above, applicant believes that claim 9 is both fully compliant with the written description requirement and is definite. Withdrawal of these rejections is therefore solicited.

Claim 10 has been amended to remedy the stated bases of rejections under Section 112. Withdrawal of these rejections is solicited. Amended claim 10 is reproduced below.

An adjustable detergent dispenser for water cleaners, comprising:

a body (1) connected to an aspiration conduit (15), the conduit in turn connectable to a container for holding a detergent,

said aspiration conduit comprising a conduit head (16),

said body comprising i) a water ejector comprised of a tapered water inlet chamber (3) ending with a fixed nozzle (4),
ii) a Venturi expansion chamber (5) terminating with an exit nozzle (6), ~~that provides~~ a depression being caused by action of

an exiting jet from the ~~exit~~ fixed nozzle (4), iii) an underlying chamber (9) underlying the expansion chamber and connectable in fluid communication with the expansion chamber, the underlying chamber delimited by a trunco-cylindrical wall (10), and iv) a connecting portion (12) for connection to the container,

the conduit head comprising i) a wide plate (17) destined to contact against the trunco-cylindrical wall, ii) a trunco-cylindrical drum (18), and iii) a flat upper part (21) provided with open top radial channels (22A, 22B, 22C, 22D and 22E), the radial channels having different depths from an upper surface of the flat upper part and open along their entire length when not pressed against the body, wherein,

the aspiration conduit is insertable into the underlying chamber (9) of the body, coupling the drum (18) on the trunco-cylindrical wall (10) of the chamber (9), and converting a single one of the open top radial channels into a flow channel by pressing a top of the drum against a mating surface of the body,

the pressing causing the open top of the single one radial channel to become the flow channel by the head drawing up into a bottom of the underlying chamber so that only a portion of the top is left open to serve as an exit opening and a remaining portion of the open top is closed to result in a single flow channel being formed.

Thus, the claim has been amended to be proper as to form and consistent with the specification disclosure.

No objections were noted as to claims 11-16.

In view of the above, claims 9-16 are believed to be patentable. Allowance of these claims is therefore solicited.

Claim 1 has been amended to address the bases of rejection. Annotated claim 1 follows.

1. An adjustable detergent dispenser for water cleaners, comprising: at least three elements which can be assembled together, the at least three elements being a body 1, an aspiration conduit 15 and a container of a detergent 31; and

a radially-directed series of ~~notches~~ channels afforded on a flat upper part of a head of the aspiration conduit, the ~~notches~~ channels becoming flow channels only when the head draws up to a bottom of an expansion chamber so as to result in variable-height channels being ~~afforded on~~ formed between a flat upper part of the head of the aspiration conduit and a mating lower surface of the body, the channels having different heights and the formed flow channels having different heights,

the aspiration conduit being connected to an expansion chamber of an ejector of the body through a hole and one of the variable-height flow channels fashioned radially on the upper head of the aspiration conduit,

the variable-height flow channels being interchangeable by means of a rotation of the head into at least one different position from an original position thereof with respect to the body of the dispenser.

In view of the above-noted amendments and discussion, claim 1 is believed to fully comply with the written description requirement and definite.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections are therefore solicited.

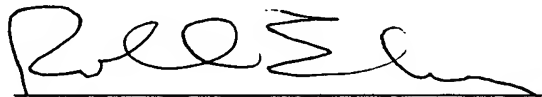
Thus, all the independent claims are believed patentable and their allowance is solicited.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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